

Dear BC Families,

Barren County School District is committed to communicating effectively with our families and making decisions that prioritize the safety of our students and staff. Weather-related closures can be challenging, and we want to ensure you have a clear understanding of our decision-making process and communication protocols. The following are responses to the most commonly asked questions we receive about weather-related school closures.

Q: How are decisions about school closures made?

A: We carefully monitor weather conditions and road safety across the county. We stay in close contact with the Barren County Sheriff's Department, Barren County Emergency Management, the state and county road departments, and the National Weather Service. We send out spotters to assess road conditions in various locations throughout the county. It's important to note that while some areas may appear clear, other parts of the county can have icy or hazardous roads that make travel dangerous. Safety is always our top priority.

Q: When are school closures announced?

A: We do our best to announce closures the night before to allow families time to make arrangements. However, when conditions are uncertain or change overnight, we may need to wait until the morning to make a final decision.

Q: How will I be notified if schools are closed?

A: We will notify families using our usual communication channels, which include the Barren County Schools app, our Alerts notification system, our website, and our social media platforms.

Q: What is the difference between an NTI day and a traditional snow day?

A: A traditional snow day is a complete cancellation of school, with no instruction or assignments for students. These days are typically made up later in the school year. In contrast, a Non-Traditional Instruction (NTI) day allows students to continue learning from home when weather conditions prevent in-person instruction. On NTI days, teachers communicate assignments for the day, and they are available throughout the day to offer assistance. NTI days count as instructional days and do not require makeup days at the end of the school year. This approach helps maintain learning momentum while reducing the need to extend the school calendar.

Q: Why don't you announce when schools are open?

A: To keep communication straightforward and streamlined, we only announce closures. If you do not receive a notification, schools will operate on a regular schedule.

Additionally, announcing that schools are open the night before can create confusion if conditions worsen overnight and a closure decision becomes necessary. This would require a second, conflicting announcement in the morning, which can be frustrating and disruptive for families. By only announcing closures, we avoid unnecessary messages and help ensure that critical notifications receive the attention they deserve.

Q: Why don't we follow neighboring districts' decisions?

A: Road conditions and weather patterns vary significantly within and between counties. Decisions are made based on local conditions and safety assessments specific to our community.

We appreciate your understanding and patience as we work to ensure the safety of everyone in our school community.

In Service,
Amy Irwin
Superintendent